

IEPA Log No.: **C-0593-14**
CoE appl. #: **2014-1499**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **August 21, 2015**
Public Notice Ending Date: **September 21, 2015**

Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
Amendments of 1972

Section 401 Water Quality Certification to Discharge into Waters of the State

Public Notice/Fact Sheet Issued By:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Division of Water Pollution Control
Permit Section
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
217/782-3362

Name and Address of Discharger: Peoria City/County Landfill, Inc., 4700 N. Sterling Avenue, Peoria, IL 61615

Discharge Location: Section 23, T9N, R6E of the 4th P.M. in Peoria County near Edwards

Name of Receiving Water: Unnamed Wetlands

Project Description: Landfill Expansion (Landfill #3).

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has received an application for a Section 401 water quality certification to discharge into the waters of the state associated with a Section 404 permit application received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Public Notice period will begin and end on the dates indicated in the heading of this Public Notice. The last day comments will be received will be on the Public Notice period ending date unless a commenter demonstrating the need for additional time requests an extension to this comment period and the request is granted by the IEPA. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the project to the IEPA at the above address. Commenters shall provide their names and addresses along with comments on the certification application. Commenters may include a request for public hearing. The certification and notice number(s) must appear on each comment page.

The attached Fact Sheet provides a description of the project and the antidegradation assessment.

The application, Public Notice/Fact Sheet, comments received, and other documents are available for inspection and may be copied at the IEPA at the address shown above between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday when scheduled by the interested person.

If written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in the certification application, the IEPA may, at its discretion, hold a public hearing. Public notice will be given 30 days before any public hearing. If a Section 401 water quality certification is issued, response to relevant comments will be provided at the time of the certification. For further information, please call Thaddeus Faught at 217/782-3362.

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Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment
Peoria City/County Landfill, Inc. – Unnamed Wetlands – Peoria County
IEPA Log # C-0593-14
COE # 2014-1499
Contact: Diane Shasteen (217) 558-2012
August 21, 2015

Peoria City/County Landfill, Inc. (PCCLI; “Applicant”) has applied for Section 401 water quality certification for permanent impacts to 1.62 acres of emergent forested wetlands in association with the expansion of the Peoria City/County Landfill. The proposed project is located south of West Southport Road between the cities of Peoria and Brimfield, in Peoria County, in Section 23, Township 9 North, Range 6 East. The proposed project, part of the Peoria County’s Solid Waste Management Plan, is an expansion of the existing landfill operation which has been jointly owned for over 35 years by the City of Peoria and Peoria County. The landfill expansion will include a 78.2 acre area located within the existing 321 acre landfill site owned and operated by PCCLI. The purpose of the landfill expansion is to provide 10 million tons of new disposal capacity that is needed to meet the landfill needs of Peoria County and the surrounding area.

The construction of the landfill expansion will result in permanent impacts to 1.62 acres of emergent forested wetlands. No wetland mitigation banks are available in Peoria County; therefore, permanent wetland impacts will be mitigated in excess of a 2:1 ratio with the construction of a 10.7 acre wetland site within the Kickapoo Creek watershed. The wetland mitigation plan includes the establishment of 1.29 acres of emergent wetland, 2.03 acres of wet prairie, 0.1 acres of forested wetland, 0.43 acres of deep water habitat, 2.5 acres of upland prairie buffer, and the preservation of 3.3 acres of existing wooded riparian corridor. The conservation easement for the Vicary Bottoms wetland mitigation site will be owned and operated by the Peoria Park District as part of their Vicary Bottoms Dog Park.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

Shaw Environmental, Inc. conducted a wetland delineation survey of the landfill expansion project site on November 19, 2009. Four wetland areas (1-4) and two waters of the US (WOUS) were identified during the site visit. Coal Hollow Run and Warsaw Run (WOUS) were located near the south property line and northwest corner of the property, respectively. Neither of these waterbodies will be impacted by the proposed project. Four wetland areas were delineated in the project area including Sites 1 and 2 located adjacent to Coal Hollow Run and Sites 3 and 4 associated with Warsaw Run. A total of 4.74 acres of jurisdictional wetlands were determined to be within the proposed project boundary with the majority of the wetlands identified as the Coal Hollow Wetland. The Coal Hollow Wetland complex (4.52 acres) consists of a low quality emergent forested wetland (FQI 9.2). Approximately 1.62 wetland acres will be permanently impacted by the proposed project and approximately 2.9 wetland acres will be avoided and protected during grading activities associated with the construction of the landfill. Impacts to the emergent forested wetlands are unavoidable and will be mitigated in excess of a 2:1 ratio with the construction of a 10.7 acre wetland site within the Kickapoo Creek watershed to be known as the Vicary Bottoms wetland mitigation site as part of their Vicary Bottoms Dog Park.

Identification of Proposed Pollutant Load Increases or Potential Impacts on Uses.

The pollutant load increases that would occur during this project include possible increases in suspended solids during construction. An erosion and sediment control plan will be designed to minimize sedimentation effects to water resources during construction of the landfill expansion and the created wetland.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in suspended solids will be local and temporary. Erosion control measures will be utilized to minimize any increase in these disturbances and prevent further impacts to the streams and the wetlands near the newly constructed project. The Applicant will construct a 10.7 acre wetland site within the Kickapoo Creek watershed at Vicary Bottoms as part of their Vicary Bottoms Dog Park.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

Peoria City/County Landfill is the only active landfill in Peoria County, Illinois and serves the needs of the residents of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and the surrounding area. The landfill expansion will provide 10.1 million tons of additional disposal capacity necessary to fulfill the needs of the service area for several years. Failure to provide waste disposal would cause a significant economic and infrastructure burden on the service area.

Assessments of Alternatives for Less Increase in Loading or Minimal Environmental Degradation.

PCCLI contracted CB&I Environmental and Infrastructure, Inc. (CB&I) to prepare planning documents and provide information regarding alternatives for the proposed project. A “no-build” alternative was ruled out due to the following:

- Solid waste disposal must be provided consistent with the county’s Solid Waste Management Plan
- The existing landfill is nearing capacity with analysis indicating at least 10 million tons of new disposal capacity is needed
- Local area disposal needs were estimated to be 18.8 million tons from 2010 to 2051; the currently operating landfill has remaining storage estimated at 3 million ton and is anticipated to be closed in 2021
- A “no-build” alternative would result in insufficient waste disposal capacity to support the population of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and the surrounding area

A hydrogeologic investigation was completed on property (321 acres) purchased by Peoria County for the purpose of landfilling. The investigation identified parcels that meet landfill setback requirements and could be developed in a manner that is protective of public health, welfare, and safety. The existence of previous sub-surface mining and airport setback restrictions precluded development of significant tracts of land south of the current landfill for further development. The final site selection resulted in a 78.2 acre expansion area that avoided underground mines and their angle-of-draw and the airport setback zone. To meet the disposal capacity needed (10 million tons) the waste disposal footprint required near maximization of the 78.2 acres. The filling of 1.62 wetland acres within the footprint is necessary based on the site size limitations.

Conclusion:

The construction of the proposed project will follow conditions set forth by the Agency and USACE. The completion of the landfill construction project is the most cost effective, viable means for providing sufficient waste disposal capacity to support the residents of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and the surrounding area. Soil erosion and sediment control measures will be implemented prior to, during, and post-construction as is required for landfill construction projects. Wetland mitigation for the permanent loss of 1.62 acres of low quality wetlands will include the creation of a

10.7 acre wetland site within the Kickapoo Creek watershed to be known as the Vicary Bottoms wetland mitigation site. This site will be owned and operated by the Peoria Park District as part of their Vicary Bottoms Dog Park.

Summary Comments of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Regional Planning Commissions, Zoning Boards or Other Entities

An Eco-CAT endangered species consultation submitted on June 13, 2014 to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources resulted in no record of State-listed threatened or endangered species or natural areas in the vicinity of the project location. Consultation for IDNR Project #1106564 was immediately terminated.

Agency Conclusion.

This preliminary assessment was conducted pursuant to the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulation for Antidegradation found at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.105 (antidegradation standard) and was based on the information available to the Agency at the time this assessment was written. We tentatively find that the proposed activity will result in the attainment of water quality standards; that all technically and economically reasonable measures to avoid or minimize the extent of the proposed increase in pollutant loading have been incorporated into the proposed activity; and that this activity will benefit the community at large by providing 10.1 million tons in additional landfill capacity for residents of the City of Peoria, Peoria County, and the surrounding area. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.